

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic transducer suitable for use in a level measurement system, said ultrasonic transducer comprising:

a transducer assembly comprising a loading block having a recess for receiving an insulating cap and being coupled to an input terminal; a metal disc coupled to said loading block through a ceramic ring, a damping washer resting in a recess in said ceramic ring and contacting said insulating cap; a fastener securing said loading block, said insulating cap, said metal disc and said ceramic ring;

a damper component comprising a cylinder, said cylinder encircling an exterior surface of said transducer assembly;

said damper component having a plasma etched surface ~~[[for]]~~ bonding to at least a portion of said metal disc of said transducer assembly, said bonded surface transmitting vibrations from said transducer assembly.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The ultrasonic transducer as claimed in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 5, wherein said damper component comprises silicone rubber.

8. (Currently Amended) The ultrasonic transducer as claimed in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 5, wherein said metal disc is formed of aluminium.

9. (Original) The ultrasonic transducer as claimed in claim 7, wherein said metal disc is formed of aluminium.

10. (Currently Amended) The ultrasonic transducer as claimed in claim [[6]] 5, wherein said metal disc is formed of stainless steel.

11. (Original) The ultrasonic transducer as claimed in claim 7, wherein said metal disc is formed of medical grade stainless steel.

12-17. (Cancelled)